

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BONN 06576 111637Z
ACTION SS-25

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SECDEF WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
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INFO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
USDEL MC BRUSSELS PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY
CINC EUR VAHINGEN PRIORITY
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG PRIORITY
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T BONN 06576

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, MILI, MNUC, PARM, GW, OVIP (BROWN, HAROLD)
SUBJECT: AGENDA FOR SECRETARY BROWN'S MEETING WITH
MINISTER APEL

REFS: A) STATE 88227 DTG 060209Z APR 78
B) BONN 05948 DTG 031703Z APR 78

1. DR. SCHLOENBACH OF STATE SECRETARY SCHNELL'S OFFICE
IN THE DEFENSE MINISTRY HAS JUST INFORMED US THAT
MINISTER APEL AGREES WITH THE PROPOSED AGENDA IN THE
FIRST PARA OF REF A WITH ONE EXCEPTION: THE ITEM
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ENTITLED "STRATEGIC BALANCE AND SALT" SHOULD BECOME
ITEM ONE, AHEAD OF "NATO LTDP AND NATO SUMMIT."

2. SCHLOENBACH SAID THE GERMAN SIDE WAS PROPOSING THIS
CHANGE SO THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO BEGIN THE MEETING
WITH A DISCUSSION OF "THE IMPORTANT EVENT OF RECENT
DAYS," I.E., THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION ON THE NEUTRON

WEAPON.

3. SCHLOENBACH EMPHASIZED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE FRG AGREED IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE ORDER OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA IN PARA ONE OF REF A (ASIDE FROM THE REQUESTED CHANGE), MINISTER APEL WOULD FAVOR AT LEAST SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THE DISCUSSIONS. SCHLOENBACH INDICATED THAT THIS COULD MEAN, IN PRACTICE, SOME MINOR DEVIATIONS FROM THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA.

4. WE ARE NOT SURPRISED AT THIS GERMAN REQUEST. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE READ AS A SIGN THAT THE GERMANS DO NOT ATTACH CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO THE SUBJECTS THAT WE HAD PLACED AT THE HEAD OF OUR AGENDA. INSTEAD, WE REGARD IT AS A SIGN THAT THEY WISH TO DISCUSS THOSE SUBJECTS IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR OVER-ALL STRATEGIC THINKING. AS WE HAVE INDICATED IN OTHER MESSAGES, WE EXPECT THE CHANCELLOR TO WANT TO CONCENTRATE ALL OR AT LEAST MOST OF HIS DISCUSSION WITH THE SECRETARY ON OVER-ALL STRATEGIC SUBJECTS.
STOESSEL

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